



2A DIGITAL EDITION

# DARKstalkers™



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# **DARKSTALKERS**



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THREE YEARS  
AGO...

SOMEWHERE IN  
THE UNIVERSE...

HUITZIL  
H-283  
TRANSMISSION  
FROM SECTOR  
658.43.

IT  
HAS BEEN LONG  
SINCE I LEFT YOU  
ON THAT LITTLE BLUE  
WORLD. HAS ITS  
TIME COME? IS IT  
READY TO FEED  
ME?

PLANET  
DESIGNATE  
M45-3 HAS REACHED  
SUFFICIENT ENERGY  
LEVELS.

MULTIPLE  
LIFE FORMS  
HAVE EMERGED  
POSSESSING POWER  
SIGNATURES THAT  
EXCEED SPECIFIED  
PARAMETERS.



PLANET  
M45-3 IS  
READY.



EXCELLENT.  
IT INDEED  
APPEARS QUITE  
APPETIZING.

THIS  
WORLD  
HAS RIPPENED  
FOR LONG ENOUGH.  
IT IS TIME THAT  
I RETURNED  
TO IT...



...AND  
FEASTED.

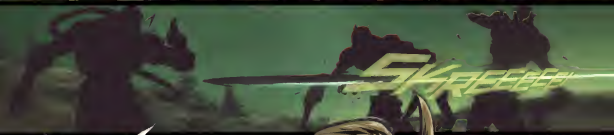




THE PRESENT.

EARTH.











THE MAKAI.  
THE DEMON REALM.

IN THE  
BEGINNING,  
BEFORE REMEMBERED  
TIME, THE MAKAI  
KNEW ONLY  
CHAOS.

DEMON  
AGAINST DEMON.  
RACE AGAINST RACE.  
HOUSE AGAINST HOUSE--  
FACTIONS VIED FOR  
POWER IN A CONTINUOUS  
CYCLE OF CIVIL  
WAR.

PEACE  
WAS SOMETHING  
UNDREAMT OF AND  
FOR MILLENNIA UPON  
MILLENNIA CHAOS  
REIGNED UNTIL A  
SINGLE HOUSE ROSE  
TO POWER...

...THE  
HOUSE OF  
AENSLAND. THIS  
HOUSE. MY  
HOUSE.

I  
CRUSHED ANY  
OPPOSITION I FACED,  
MERCILESSLY DESTROYING  
MILLIONS OF DEMONS AND  
UNDEAD UNTIL THE NAME  
OF BELIAL AENSLAND  
WAS FEARED MORE  
THAN ANY OTHER  
IN HISTORY.

I DID  
THIS NOT BECAUSE  
OF A GREED FOR POWER,  
BUT FOR A DESIRE TO GIVE  
THE MAKAI WHAT IT HAD  
NEVER KNOWN--  
STABILITY.

IT IS  
THROUGH THE  
FEAR OF MY POWER  
THAT THE HOUSE OF  
AENSLAND HAS BEEN  
ABLE TO RULE  
UNCHALLENGED AND  
BALANCE HAS BEEN  
MAINTAINED.

BUT I  
FEAR THIS TIME  
OF QUIETUDE MAY  
BE NEARING THE END  
OF ITS COURSE. MY  
STRENGTH IS FADING  
AND MY TIME,  
PASSING.

SURELY,  
THE ENEMIES OF  
AENSLAND WILL LEARN  
OF THIS SOON...THE  
TIME HAS COME TO  
REVEAL TO MORRIGAN,  
MY BELOVED HEIR, THE  
SECRET TO HER  
POWER.

LUCIEN  
AND MUDO,  
FETCH HER  
FOR ME.

YES,  
LORD BELIAL,  
WE WILL  
BRING HER  
IMMEDIATELY.



THANK  
YOU FOR YOUR  
HELP, BROTHER  
DONOVAN. MY  
CONGREGATION  
IS INDEBTED  
TO YOU.



WE  
ARE NOT AN  
AFFLUENT PARISH  
BY ANY MEANS,  
BUT PLEASE  
ACCEPT THIS AS  
COMPENSATION.

NO,  
FATHER, I CANNOT  
ACCEPT THAT I AM  
A NIGHT WARRIOR—  
A HUNTER OF THE  
DARK ONES. I WAS  
MERELY PERFORMING  
MY DUTY, LIKE YOU  
DO AT EVERY  
MASS.

BUT  
YOU MUST AT  
LEAST REST HERE  
FOR A WHILE. YOU AND  
ANITA ARE WELCOME  
TO STAY AS LONG  
AS YOU  
WISH.

THANK YOU,  
BUT AGAIN I  
MUST REFUSE. SHE  
AND I HAVE A LONG  
JOURNEY AHEAD OF  
US AND TIME IS  
PRESSING.



PARDON  
IF I AM PRYING,  
BUT YOUR SISTER  
SEEMS TROUBLED.  
IS SHE  
WELL?

NO,  
SHE IS NOT...  
AND SHE IS  
NOT MY  
SISTER.

REALLY?  
IT'S JUST  
THAT I CAN SEE  
THAT SHE LOVES  
YOU VERY  
MUCH.



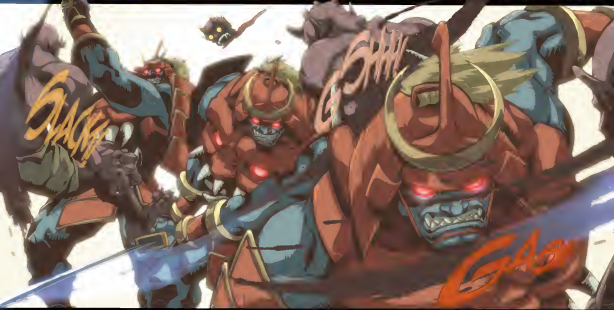
YOU ARE  
MISTAKEN. LOVE IS  
SOMETHING SHE MOST  
CERTAINLY DOES  
NOT FEEL FOR  
ME.



THE  
ABILITY TO LOVE  
IS ONE OF THE MANY  
THINGS ANITA HAS LACKED  
EVER SINCE THE TERRIBLE  
TRAGEDY THAT BEFELL HER.  
I LEARNED THIS WHEN I  
FIRST FOUND  
HER.

WHEN WAS  
THIS? WHAT  
HAPPENED  
TO HER?









ARE  
YOU NOT  
GOING TO  
SCREAM?



SCREAM!!!

SHING!



FIMP



...

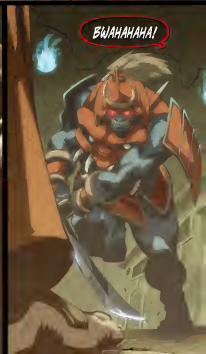
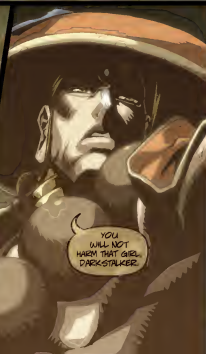


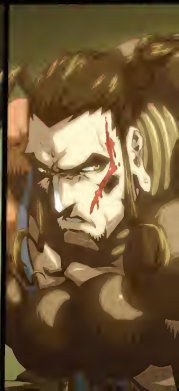
HMPH!  
EVEN IF YOU  
WILL NOT SCREAM,  
YOU WILL BLEED  
BEAUTIFULLY!



SHING!











THAT  
AURA...

THAT  
IS NOT THE  
AURA OF ANY  
HUMAN!

A  
DARK-STALKER  
THAT HUNT'S  
HIS OWN KIND...  
INTERESTING...

WE  
WILL CONTINUE  
THIS BATTLE  
LATER, NIGHT  
WARRIOR!

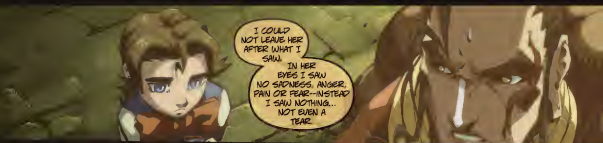


KEN  
AND HANNOYA  
HAVE HAD  
THEIR FILL OF  
BLOOD THIS  
NIGHT!



!!!





I COULD NOT LEAVE HER AFTER WHAT I SAW.

IN HER EYES I SAW NO SADNESS, ANGER, PAIN OR FEAR--INSTEAD I SAW NOTHING... NOT EVEN A TEAR.



I TOLD YOU THAT SHE CANNOT FEEL LOVE, AND THAT IS THE TRUTH.

ANITA WITNESSED MORE HORROR IN A NIGHT THAN MOST WOULD EVER SEE IN A THOUSAND LIFETIMES...

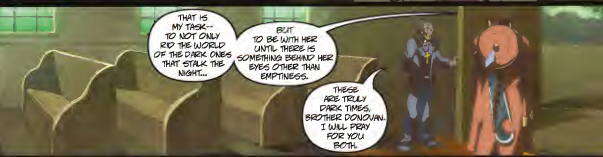


THE ONLY WAY SHE COULD DEAL WITH HER TRAGEDY WAS TO NOT FEEL ANYTHING AT ALL--DESTROYING HER EMOTIONS SO THAT SHE WOULD FEEL NOTHING RATHER THAN FEEL PAIN.



UNTIL SHE CAN TRULY MOURN--UNTIL SHE IS READY TO FINALLY SHED HER TEARS--SHE WILL NEVER BE FREE.

I WILL BE WITH HER UNTIL THAT DAY.



THAT IS MY TASK--TO NOT ONLY RID THE WORLD OF THE DARK ONES THAT STALK THE NIGHT...

BUT TO BE WITH HER UNTIL THERE IS SOMETHING BEHIND HER EYES OTHER THAN EMPTINESS.

THESE ARE TRULY DARK TIMES, BROTHER DONOVAN. I WILL PRAY FOR YOU BOTH.



FAREWELL. MAY GOD BE WITH YOU. AND MAY YOU FIND SUCCESS IN BOTH YOUR JOURNEYS.



AND ANITA, BEFORE YOU GO, KNOW THAT YOU ARE LOVED...NOT ONLY BY GOD, BUT BY THOSE IN THIS WORLD AS WELL.



CASTLE AENSLAND.  
THE MAKAL.



READY  
FOR HER  
SECRET, YOU  
THINK SHE  
IS?



FOR  
HER SAKE, I  
HOPE SHE IS, MUDO.  
THAT IS A GREAT POWER  
THAT SHE WOULD BE  
GIVEN, AND IF SHE ISN'T  
PREPARED, IT  
COULD...



WELL, I  
PREFER NOT TO  
THINK ABOUT  
THAT--



MADAM  
MORRIGAN?!  
WHERE IS SHE?

A  
NOTE, THERE  
IS!



"DEAR  
LUCIEN AND MUDO,  
IT WAS MUCH TOO DUMB  
IN THE CASTLE TODAY  
SO I WENT OUT TO  
DO A LITTLE HUNTING  
IN THE HUMAN  
WORLD.

DON'T  
WORRY, I'LL  
BE BACK SOON,  
SO DON'T GET  
YOUR SPLEENS IN  
A TUSSELE! LOVE,  
MORRIGAN."



SIGH...  
THAT IMPETUOUS  
SUCCEBUS...

LORD  
SEBAL, IMPALE  
US, HE  
WILL!

THE HUMAN  
WORLD.

AH,  
WHAT A  
BEAUTIFUL NIGHT,  
FULL OF SLEEPING  
SOULS AND TASTY  
DREAMS. I DON'T EVEN  
KNOW WHERE TO  
BEGIN!

ANALYZING  
POWER  
LEVELS...

TO BE CONTINUED...

FIVE YEARS AGO

MASTER, ARE YOU CERTAIN IT IS WISE TO BE THIS DEEP IN THE WOODS UNDER THE FULL MOON... WHEN THE CREATURE DOES ITS HUNTING?

THAT IS PRECISELY WHY WE ARE HERE THIS NIGHT- TO DRAW THE CREATURE OUT USING OURSELVES AS BAIT.

TOO MANY INNOCENT LIVES HAVE BEEN LOST BECAUSE OF THIS CREATURE AND IT IS OUR DUTY AS MARTIAL ARTISTS TO BRING THE CARNAGE TO AN END.



STILL, I WISH WE COULD BE DOING THIS UNDER THE SUN INSTEAD OF THE MOON--



**TALBAIN'S BANE** STORY BY KEN SIU-CHONG, ART BY LESEAN THOMAS, COLORS BY E.P. & PATARA











MASTER, FINISH IT!

DESTROY THAT MONSTER!

THAT IS NOT WHY WE CAME HERE.



YOU POOR SOUL...



THE NEXT MORNING.



WHERE AM I...?



MY IRONS... OH NO, I BROKE FREE FROM THEM AGAIN...

GOOD MORNING.



WHO ARE YOU?

I AM THE MASTER OF THIS DOJO... AND I AM ALSO THE MAN WHO IS GOING TO TEACH YOU TO CONTROL YOUR DARK HALF.

THROUGH THE STUDY OF MARTIAL ARTS, I WILL TEACH YOU TO MASTER BOTH YOUR MIND AND BODY.



WHAT COULD YOU KNOW ABOUT CONTROLLING MY DARK HALF?

HOW COULD ANY HUMAN KNOW WHAT I GO THROUGH!!!



ON THE CONTRARY, THERE ARE THOSE WHO SHARE YOUR PAIN...



THOSE WHO HAVE ALSO BEEN CURSED WITH IMPURE BLOOD...



AND THOSE WHO WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT YOU ARE NOT ALONE.

END.

